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DEPT. FOR OES/IHB, S/GAC AND IO/EDA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [KHIV](#) [PREL](#) [TBIO](#) [MO](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: MOROCCO SUPPORT FOR UNITAID

REF: STATE 84277

Sensitive but unclassified -- protect accordingly.

1. (U) Action request, please see paragraph 3.

2. (SBU) On June 22, econoff discussed reftel with Zakia Midaoui, Director of the MFA's Division of Economic and Commercial Organizations and Conferences. Midaoui reported that in March 2006 Morocco and several other African countries signed a memorandum of understanding pledging unspecified support for UNITAID. Since then the GOM has taken little, if any action on this issue. The Ministry of Transportation (MOT) has been hesitant to institute a tax on airline tickets to raise funds for UNITAID. Midaoui reported that the MOT, the Ministry of Finance and Royal Air Maroc plan to meet in the fall to discuss the issue. She also noted that UNITAID had suggested a tax on jet fuel in lieu of a tax on tickets, but was not aware of other options available to UNITAID signatories to raise funds. Midaoui was very interested in USG ideas for raising funds to combat AIDS and asked if Washington could supply her with examples. She requested to receive these ideas by June 29 in order to distribute them to other relevant GOM offices prior to the summer vacation season. Midaoui stated that the GOM "did not have any ideas" of its own to replace the tax on airline tickets supported by France.

3. (U) Action request: Post requests the Department send examples of USG ideas on alternative means of raising funds for UNITAID. The GOM appears willing to listen to USG concerns but requests alternative fund raising ideas. Please send ideas by June 29. Assistance appreciated.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/rabat>

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